

FAMOUS 1950s EC COMICS!



NO. 3
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CANADA

SHOCK SUSPENSTORIES

**THRILLING TALES OF
TENSION**
IN THE
TRADITION!



THE SHOCKING WIND-UP TO THIS ELECTRIFYING TALE
WILL JOLT YOU OUT OF YOUR SEATS!

Just **DESSERTS!**

**A CRIME
SUSPENSE STORY**



HE HAD TURNED OFF THE WATER AND DRIED HIS HANDS. HE CHUCKLED TO HIMSELF. THE DINNER PARTY HAD BEEN SUCH A GOOD IDEA! BRINGING ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE TOGETHER AT ONE TIME HAD BEEN A STROKE OF GENIUS! AND EVERYTHING HAD GONE SO WELL! HE HUNG UP THE TOWEL CAREFULLY AND SUCCUBED HIMSELF IN THE MIRROR...

THEY'RE NOW I LOOK
PRESENTABLE! BUT I
SHOULD GO BACK TO
THEM! I MIGHT HELP
MY GUESTS' HATTITUDE!



Gold
Funnels

BERNARD UNLOCKED THE BATHROOM DOOR AND HUR-
 RIED INTO THE DINING ROOM! HIS GUESTS SAY
 ABOUT THE TABLE IN SILENCE! NO ONE STIRRED!
 BERNARD GRINNED AT THEM...

I'M SORRY I WAS GONE
 SO LONG! I JUST WANTED TO
 CLEAN UP A BIT BEFORE
 WE TALKED THINGS OVER!
 YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU?



BERNARD LOOKED AT EACH GUEST! THERE WERE FIVE
 OF THEM AT THE TABLE, BESIDE HIMSELF! THERE
 WAS HIS WIFE, CORA, HIS BEST FRIEND, IVING, HIS
 OLD-MAN AUNT, CLORINDA, HIS BUSINESS PARTNER,
 HARRY, AND A HORSE NAMED FANNY.

I SUPPOSE THIS DINNER
 HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT OF A
 SHOCK TO ALL OF YOU!
 YOU'RE ALL SO GAZE? NOW!



WELL, I CAN'T SAY I BLAME
 YOU! SHALL I TELL YOU HOW ALL
 THIS CAME ABOUT? WOULD YOU
 LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE ALL
 HERE... LIKE THIS?



BERNARD LIT A CIGARETTE AND
 MOVED AROUND THE TABLE BEHIND
 HIS GUESTS! HE STOPPED IN
 BACK OF FANNY, THE HORSE,
 WHO'D ONCE WORKED FOR HIM.



I'LL START WITH
 HOG, FANNY! YOU
 REMEMBER WHEN
 I HIRED YOU.

AND I INTRODUCED YOU TO JIMMY.



THIS IS MY SON, JIMMY,
 FANNY! YOUR JOB WILL BE
 TO LOOK AFTER HIM.

AT LEAST YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO LOOK AFTER
 HIM! JIMMY WAS A GOOD BOY! HE LOOKED JUST LIKE
 MY FIRST WIFE, TOO! REMEMBER HOW YOU USED TO
 TAKE HIM FOR STROLLS?



OH, BEAUTIFUL! THAT'S
 A NICE HOG YOU'VE GOT
 THERE!

IT AIN'T A HOG,
 HANDBONE! I TAKE
 CARE OF LITTLE
 BOYS!

REMEMBER THE DAY IT HAPPENED, FANNY? YOU WERE
 REALLY CLEVER, WEREN'T YOU? YOU STRAPPED
 JIMMY IN HIS STROLLER SO HE WOULDN'T WANDER OFF
 WHILE YOU FLIRTED WITH YOUR BOY-FRIEND.

WHAT TIME DO YOU GET
 OFF TONIGHT, BARRY?

ABOUT EIGHT!
 SOMING TAKE ME
 SOMEPLACE?





REALLY CLEVER. WASN'T IT? YOU WERE SO BUSY MAKING EYES AT YOUR LATEST FIND, YOU NEVER NOTICED THE STROLLER BEGIN TO ROLL.

WHERE'D YOU LIKE TO GO, BABY?

SOMEPLACE WHERE A NIGHT-CLUB, MAYBE.



YOU'VE FORGOTTEN TO PUT ON THE BRAKE! THE SIDEWALK WASN'T LEVEL! THE STROLLER ROLLED RIGHT OFF THE CURB.

GEE, BABY? MAYBE YOU'D BETTER LOOK FOR A NEW EXPENSIVE GIRL-HANDICART!



...RIGHT INTO THE PATH OF A SPEEDING TRUCK!



BERNARD STOOD OVER FANNY, GLARING DOWN AT HER.

WHY'D HE *ALIVE* TODAY, FANNY? HE'D BE ALIVE TODAY IF YOU HAD USED A LITTLE SENSE! IT WAS A STUPID THING TO DO! STUPID!



NEXT TO FANNY SAT JULIUS THOMPSON, BERNARD'S OLD BUSINESS PARTNER. BERNARD PATTED HIS SHOULDER.

DEAR JULIUS! WHAT TROUBLES YOU CALLED WHEN YOU WIPED ME OUT?



"OH, YES? I *WANT* YOU ENGINEERED THE WHOLE SCHEME! YOU WEREN'T AS CLEVER AS YOU THOUGHT! YOU FORGOT ABOUT OUR DETECTION SYSTEM!"

THAT'S RIGHT! JUST *PAD* YOUR BILLS TO OUR COMPANY! I'LL OWE THEM AND GIVE YOU TWENTY PERCENT!

BUT YOU'LL GO BROKE FAST IF I DO THAT, JULIUS!



"YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE PLANNED YOUR DIRTY DEALS RIGHT IN OUR OFFICES, JULIUS!"

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO HAPPEN, JOE! I WANT TO Wipe BERNIE OUT...

OKAY, JULIUS! I'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT! BUT WE BETTER MAKE THAT TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT!

BERNARD STARED DOWN AT HIS OLD-WARD AUNT, CLORISSA.

THAT'S WHEN I CAME TO POO!
AUNT CLORISSA! REMEMBER?
I TOLD YOU THE WHOLE STORY!
I TOLD YOU THAT IF I COULDN'T
RAISE FIVE THOUSAND
DOLLARS, I'D BE BANKRUPT.

"REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD ME, AUNT CLORISSA?
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID..."

FOOD FOR YOU, BERNIE!
SERVES YOU RIGHT! I
TOLD YOU YOU'D END UP
A MORTGAGE TRAMP!

BUT AUNT CLORISSA! I
CAN BEAT THEM! FIVE
THOUSAND! THAT'S ALL
I NEED! IT WILL PULL
ME THROUGH TILL I
CAN PROVE THAT JULIUS
IS BEHIND THIS SCHEME!

BUT YOU WERE TOO STUPID TO
UNDERSTAND YOU SAW THERE WAS
NO YOUR BANKBOOKS... AND REFUSED.

NOT ONE RED
CENT, BERNARD?
NOT A DIME?

PLEASE, AUNT
CLORISSA! USE
YOUR HEAD!
YOU'LL GET YOUR
MONEY BACK...
WITH INTEREST!

YOU LET ME SINK, DIDN'T YOU
CLORISSA? YOU LET ME GO DOWN!
WHEN JULIUS BROUGHT IN THE
AUDITOR, I NEVER LET ON THAT
I KNEW... DID I... ALMOST...

THAT'S THE STORY...
BERNIE! WE'VE
THROUGH
WASHED UP!

YOU'LL
HAVE TO
DECLARE
BANKRUPTCY,
SIR!

THIS... THIS LEAVES
ME FLAT BROKE,
JULIUS! I'M
POORER!

I'M... SORRY.
BERNIE! THANK
GOODNESS,
I HAVE A
LITTLE SOMETHING
TO FINE
ME OVER!

LITTLE SOMETHING? YOU WERE BACK IN BUSINESS
INSIDE TWO MONTHS! AND YOU THOUGHT I WAS
STUPID! YOU THOUGHT I DIDN'T KNOW! IT WAS
YOU WHO WAS FOOLISH, JULIUS! IT WAS YOU WHO
DIDN'T USE YOUR HEAD!

"REMEMBER WHEN WE MET ON THE STREET, AND I
INVITED YOU TO THIS DINNER PARTY."

WELL, BERNIE! HOW
YOU GOIN' LATELY?
LONG TIME NO SEE!

JULIUS! WHAT A STROKE
OF LUCK! I'M HAVING A
DINNER PARTY NEXT
WEEK! YOU'RE INVITED...
FOR OLD-TIMES SAKS!

AND YOU SAID, DIDN'T YOU? YOU **FOOL**, YOU **STUPID FOOL**? WHAT DID YOU **EXPECT** WHEN YOU GOT HERE? WHAT DID YOU **ALL** EXPECT? DID YOU THINK I INVITED YOU HERE OUT OF LOVE, **FRIEND-SHOP**? DON'T YOU KNOW I **DEBATED** EACH OF YOU FOR WHAT YOU **DID** TO ME?



BERNARD MOVED AROUND THE TABLE STAPING AT EACH OF THE FIVE PEOPLE SEATED BEFORE IT? HE STOPPED BEHIND HIS WIFE AND LIT ANOTHER CIGARETTE...

DEAR, SWEET, **STUPID CORA**? MY **LOVING** WIFE? YOU NEVER **SUSPECTED** I KNEW ABOUT YOU AND IRVING, DID YOU?



BERNARD'S FACE GREW DARK? HE **IMAGED** AT CORA.

WELL, I **KNEW** IT ALL THE TIME, CORA? YOU DIDN'T **FOOL** ME FOR A **MINUTE**? I **KNEW** WHAT YOU WERE DOING **BEHIND** MY **BACK**!



IRVING SAT NEXT TO CORA? HE MADE NO SOUND, NO OUTCRY OF **OBJECTION**...

SURPRISED, AWOKE YOU **THOUGHT** YOU WERE **SAFE**? YOU **THOUGHT** I'D NEVER **SUSPECT** MY **BEST FRIEND** OF TRYING TO **STEAL** MY **WIFE**!



HOW **IGNORANT** YOU BOTH WERE! HOW **BLIND**? WHY, I EVEN **REMEMBER** THE **RIGHT** HOUR LITTLE **AFRICA** **BEGAN**? WE'D BEEN OUT TOGETHER... **JUST** THE **THREE** OF US! **REMEMBER**...

LET'S GO, IRVING? **BERNARD**'S HAD A **LITTLE** TOO MUCH TO **DRINK**? I **THINK** WE'D BETTER GET HIM **HOME**!



"YEA, I'D BEEN **DRINKING**? AND I HAD A **RIGHT** TO IT? ANY MAN IN MY POSITION WOULD HAVE **OTTEN** HIMSELF **DRAG** DRUNK? AFTER ALL, BEING **RUINED** FINANCIALLY IS NO **EASY** THING TO **TAKE**!"

HE'D **WASH** MATTER? **WAS**? TIME TO GO **HOME**? IT'S **LATE**, DEAR? TIME TO GO **HOME**? I'LL GET A **CAB**, CORA?



"YOU HAD A **PRETTY** **ROUGH** TIME GETTING ME TO THE CAR, DIDN'T YOU, IRVING? AND ON THE WAY **HOME**..."

BERNARD? **SPEAK** TO ME? IRVING? WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH HIM? HE'S **PASSED** OUT, CORA? DON'T **WORRY**? WE'LL PUT HIM TO **BED** AND HE'LL BE **OKAY** IN THE **MORNING**!



"YOU REMEMBER THAT NIGHT, CORA? I'VE CARRIED ME INTO THE HOUSE AND LAID ME ON OUR BED! AND YOU TOOK OFF MY SHOES! REMEMBER I...."

IS HE CRAZY, CORA?

OH-HUH? HE'S ASLEEP?

WELL, IT... IT'S LATE! I'D BETTER BE GOING."

NOT JUST YET, IRVING! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU! IT'S ABOUT BERNARD!

ANYTHING WRONG, CORA?

EVERYTHING! HE WAS WORDED OUT TODAY! I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO!



WHY, YOU'RE GOING TO STICK WITH HIM, CORA? HE'LL NEED YOU MORE THAN EVER NOW! A WOMAN'S PLACE IS WITH THE MAN SHE LOVES!

BUT I DON'T LOVE HIM, IRVING! I... I NEVER LOVED HIM!

WHAT? SAY THAT AGAIN!

I ONLY MARRIED HIM FOR HIS MONEY... THE MONEY HIS FIRST WIFE LEFT HIM! DO YOU THINK I'D HAVE MARRIED A HOODLUM... WITH A CHILD... OTHERWISE?



CORA! I... I NEVER KNEW!

AND DID IRVING NOT EVEN BERNIE? A WOMAN DOESN'T BRAG ABOUT THOSE THINGS! AND THEN YOU HAD TO COME BACK FROM ABOARD... HIS BEST FRIEND?

WHAT HAVE I GOT TO DO WITH THIS?

IT WASN'T SO BAD TILL THEN! I EVEN FELT SORRY FOR HIM WHEN JIMMY DIED! BUT THEN YOU CAME HOME... AND I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU!



"YOU'RE SURPRISED. AREN'T YOU, DONAT? YOU DIDN'T THINK I HEARD WHAT WAS SAID THAT NIGHT? YOU THOUGHT I WAS OUT SOLD ON THE BED."

"FOOL... YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH ME?"

"I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF, (BUT I TRIED TO HIDE IT!) I KNEW YOU WERE HIS BEST FRIEND!"



"WHY, YOU WERE SO ENTHRALLED IN EACH OTHER, YOU DIDN'T EVEN HEAR ME OPEN THE BEDROOM DOOR, DIDN'T? EVEN KNOW I WAS WATCHING!"

"YOU FOOL! YOU BILLY FOOL! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME? WE'VE WASTED ALL THIS TIME! WH. I'VE LOVED YOU SINCE THE FIRST DAY I MET YOU!"

"OH, WHY? WHY KISS ME?"



"AND YOU REALIZED I'D NEVER GIVE YOU A DIVORCE, DIDN'T YOU, DONAT? YOU AND ME STARTED CARRYING ON A LOVE AFFAIR BEHIND MY BACK? BUT YOU DID SUCH STUPID THINGS? YOU DIDN'T USE YOUR HEAD?"

"HE'S WORKING LATE, TONIGHT, DARLING! COME SEE ME!"

"I'LL BE RIGHT OVER, DONAT!"



"YOU BOTH MADE SO MANY MISTAKES! I CAME HOME EARLY THAT NIGHT! MY CAR WAS PARKED OUTSIDE! I LOOKED IN THE WINDOW! YOU'D EVEN NEGLECTED TO PULL DOWN THE BLINDS."



"STUPID! STUPID! EVERY ONE OF YOU WERE STUPID! YOU DIDN'T THINK I KNEW?"



"YOU DIDN'T USE YOUR HEADS! NONE OF YOU DID!"



"PEOPLE WHO DON'T USE THEIR HEADS... DON'T NEED THEM..."



BERNARD POUNDED THE TABLE IN ANGER! HIS SURPRISE STAFFED! GORA PITCHED HOWARD! FANNY SLUMPED TO THE SIDE! JIMMY SLID OFF HIS CHAIR AND DROPPED TO THE FLOOR! AUNT GLORIANA SAT STIFFLY! JACQUEE SPRAWLED ACROSS HER LAF! BERNARD GRINNED AT THE DECAPITATED CORPSES! HE RAISED A GLASS OF WINE... IN TOAST...

TO PEOPLE, MEN, MEN...
WHO DON'T... MEN MEN...
USE THEM... EN, EN...
EN, EN, EN...



BRACE YOURSELVES FOR THE SOLID IMPACT
OF THIS GRIPPING NARRATIVE!

the Guilty!

THIS SHAMEFUL STORY MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES! IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED IN POOR TOWN! IT BEGAN WITH THE PITIFUL WAIL OF A WOMAN SCREAMING THROUGH THE BALLY SPINDS AIR! THEMILLING CROWD AROUND THE JAIL-HOUSE GREW ROIST AS THE SQUAD-CAR PULLED UP! A DOOR SWUNG OPEN, AND SHERIFF HUMPHREY GARDSON STOPPED BUT! HE RAISED HIS HAND TO SILENCE THE ARRAV SHOUTS...

THE SHERIFF MOVED THROUGH THE CROWD, CLEAVING A PATH UP THE JAIL-HOUSE STEPS! WHEN HE REACHED THE TOP, HE TURNED TO THE SQUAD-CAR PARKED AT THE CURB...



DIVA GET 'EM, SHERIFF!

TURN 'EM, LOOSE! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF 'EM!

THE SHERIFF!

HOLD IT, BOYS! WE'LL GET 'EM WHEN THE TIME COMES! NOW STAND BACK, EVERYBODY... WE'LL TAKE 'EM INSIDE!



ALL RIGHT! BRING THE SQUAD-CAR UP! NOW, KEEP BACK, POLICE!

DEAR, SHERIFF! 'EM, COLLARS! GET MOVIN'!



A DEPUTY STEPPED FROM THE SQUAD-CAR, AND THE INSIDE MAN NAMED COLLINS FOLLOWED! THE SUNLIGHT GLEAMED ON HIS FORMATION-COVERED BROWN SKIN! HIS ARMS HUNG LIMPLY BEFORE HIM HANDCUFFS BITING INTO HIS THUMBSTICKS...

THESE PEOPLE GET HE IS YOURS, BLACK BOY!

IF THE LAW DON'T GOT YUN, WE WILL!

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! LET IN THROUGHT!

DIRT GLAH!

LET'S GET ON!

KILL 'EM!

THE DEPUTY LED COLLINS UP THE LONG FLIGHT OF STEPS! THE CROWD MOVED IN ON THE FRIGHTENED, DARK-SKINNED PRISONER... SHOUTING PROPHETIES, CURSING, THREATENING...

WHAT'S HE DO, ANYWAY?

KILLED A WHITE WOMAN?

DID HE ATTACK HER?

PROBABLY!

WAIT A MINUTE! THEY DON'T KNOW FOR SURE! AND SAYS COLLINS DID IT!

HEAVY BARRIER SEEN 'EM NEAR THE SCENE OF THE CRIME ABOUT THE TIME IT HAPPENED.

THAT DON'T MAKE IM BILLY

IT DOES IN MY BOOK! IN SHERIFF JARSON'S PRETTY SET OR IS TOO!



SOMEONE LET GO AT COLLINS AS HE PASSED AND THE WHITE MAN DROVE HIS CROWN! IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS CRYING! THE SHERIFF HONORED THE INDIGNITY.

LET'S GO WHILE PRETTY YEAH! LET'S GO! IT'S THE CUP WHILE MAKE IT UP-TOWN YER BILLY! PAPER, COLLINS! STILL ALIVE?

FINALLY THEY GOT THE PRISONER INSIDE THE JAILHOUSE...

TAKE THE MAN TO HIS CELL, JO?

ORAY, SHERIFF! BUT THERE'S MIGHTY AHEAD UP, SHERIFF! DON'T YOU.

DON'T YOU THINK WE BETTER LOOK AND BOLT THE DOORS? THEY WAT TRY SOMETHING!

IT'D SAVE THE STATE A LOT OF MONEY, 'HELD ON, WELL! MATHS YOU'RE RIGHT?



THE JAILHOUSE DOORS WERE BOLTED SHUT, AND OUTSIDE, THE CROWD CONTINUED TO MULL ABOUT. SOME, ANOTHER SIREN WAILED AND A BLACK LINCOLN PULLED UP...



IT'S THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY!

YES, PREY! WHEN'S THE TRIAL?

TAKE IT EASY FOLKS! THE TRIAL'LL COME OFF JUST AS SOON AS WE GET OUR CASE TOGETHER!

YOU AIN'T GONNA STALL AROUND, ARE YA, PREY?

WE HAD BUSH THUNDER BY A BIT, Y'KNOW!

NO YOU DON'T, NOY! COLLINS IS GONNA GET A FANTY TRIAL! I DON'T WANT ANY FANTY BUSINESS!



FREDERICK MOORE REACHED THE TOP OF THE JAIL-HOUSE STEPS AND TURNED TO FACE THE GATHERED TOWNFOLK.



NOW, WHY DON'T YOU ALL GO ON HOME? YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING HANGING AROUND HERE! THE LAW'LE HANDLE THINGS! NO OH! ALL OF YOU! GO ON HOME!

CHOW, AL! HE'S RIGHT!

LET'S YEAH! SO!

THEY HESITATED TO MOVE OFF A FEW AT FIRST, THEN MORE AND MORE! SOON, THE JAIL-HOUSE STEPS WERE ALMOST DESERTED.



OPEN UP, DAWSON! IT'S ME, FRED MOORE! THE O.A.!

OH MOORE! DEAR! JUST A MINUTE!

SHERIFF DAWSON UNLOCKED THE DOORS AND PEERED OUT...



HEY! WHERE'S EVERYBODY GO?

I SENT 'EM ON HOME! THERE'D ONLY BE A LOT OF TROUBLE IF THEY HUNG AROUND!



SHUCKS! I THOUGHT THEY'D TRY AN' LINGER THE N---R!

DISAPPOINTED, SHERIFF WILL... THERE'LL BE NO LINGERING WHILE I'M O.A.!



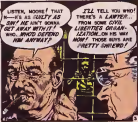
I SURE, FRED! I KNOW! WE'LL GET AROUND AND SQUARE!

I'M NOT SO CERTAIN OF THAT, DAWSON!



WHY? WHADDA MEAN? WHAT'S MYBOP? WE KNOW WE DID IT!

YEAH, HE PROBABLY DID! BUT A SMART CRIMINAL LAWYER COULD TEAR OUR CASE AGAINST COLLINS TO SHREDS! WHAT HAVE WE GOT, THE TESTIMONY OF ONE MAN WHO MERELY PLACES COLLINS IN THE VICINITY AT THE TIME? EVEN IF WE COULD PROVE MOTIVE...



LISTEN, MOORE! THAT N---R'S AS GUILTY AS SIN! HE HUNY BORN! GET AWAY WITH IT! WHO, WHO'D DEFEND HIM ANYWAY?

I'LL TELL YOU WHO! THERE'S A LAWYER... FROM SOME CIVIL LIBERTIES ORGANIZATION... ON HIS WAY NOW! THOSE GUYS ARE PRETTY SUREW!

WHY IN BLAZES DON'T
THOSE GUYS
RING THEIR OWN
DANG BUSINESS?
THIS IS OUR PART'S
NOT THEIRS!



IT'S NO
PART'S BUSINESS
THERE'S A MAN'S
LIFE AT STAKE!
AND EVEN IF
HE FEELS HE
DID IT, HE'S
INNOCENT
UNTIL PROVED
GUILTY!

A MAN'S LIFE!
MAN! HE'S
ONLY A
BUTT
M---H!
AND HE'S
GUILTY...
UNLESS THAT
CAN PROVE HE
AIN'T!



HAVE IT YOUR
OWN WAY...
ONLY I WASH
YOU! THIS
CASE ISN'T
AS OUT AND
GONE AS
YOU THINK!

THEN WE OUGHT TO LET
THE GROUPS GET 'EM
BEFORE HE GOES
TO TRIAL!



GARBON!
IF YOU LET
THAT GROUP
GET COLLING,
I'LL
PROSECUTE YOU
FOR FAILURE TO
DO YOUR DUTY!

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING IF
A LYON GROUP
STAYS THIS JAIL-
HOUSE, MOORE! WHAT
DO YOU WANT ME TO DO,
NOW I'M DOWN WITH
A MACHINE-GUNS?



THEN GET DOLLING OUT
OF HERE! TALK HIM TO
THE COUNTY DEPT! HE
CAN STAY THERE TILL
TRIAL-DAYS!

GRAY! I'LL SNEAK 'EM
THERE FORNIGHT! LET
THE BOYS OVER THERE
WORRY ABOUT HIM!



THEY'VE GOT A PRETTY
STRONG JAIL THERE, DAWSON.
THEY WON'T HAVE TO DO
MUCH WORRYIN'! IT'S US!
WE GOT THE MORNIN'! WE
GOT A CASE TO PRESENT!
AND IT DOESN'T LOOK TOO
FAT!

THAT NIGHT, A SQUAD-CAR PULLED UP TO THE REAR OF
THE JAIL-HOUSE, AND THE PRISONER WAS RUSTLED
OUT TO IT.



WHERE WE TAKIN'
'EM, SHERRIFF?

COUNTY BE AT?
B.A.S. OFFERS!
SET ON 'EM,
B---H!

THERE'S A LYON
GROUP FORMIN'
DOWNTOWN, SHERRIFF!



...THEN THE CAR MOVED OFF OUT OF TOWN...

YOU'RE MIGHTY LUCKY,
DOLLING! WE JUST GOT
YOU OUT IN TIME!

THEY'VE
STRUNG YOU
UP SURE!
EM, SHERRIFF!

SHUT UP
AND
DRIVE!

THE NEXT DAY, THE LAWYER FROM OUT-OF-TOWN, ARRIVED UPON THE SCENE.

MY NAME IS ANDERSON LOWELL ANDERSON! I'M HERE TO REPRESENT JIMMY DOLLARS!

HE AIN'T HERE! HE TOOK HIM TO THE COUNTY SEAT!



THAT WAS A VERY WISE THING TO DO, SHERIFF! WAS IT YOUR IDEA?

NO! THE D.A.'S FOR MY PART, THEY COULDN'T STRONG IN UP LAST NIGHT! HE'S GUILTY, SURE!



THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN! HE'D LIKE TO EXAMINE THE TESTIMONY OF THIS MAN, MARK BARKER!

YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE THE D.A. 'BOUT THAT! HE'S GOT ALL THE DOPE IN HIS FILES!



SOON, RUMORS BEGAN TO FLY AROUND THE TOWN.

HEY, SHERIFF! THEY SAY THEY PUT ANDERSON'S GONNA GET OFF! COLLINS OFF!

THEY SAY HE'S A SHARP! COLLINS!

YOU GONNA LET IN, SHERIFF'S COLLINS'S GUILTY, AIN'T HE?

JOHN RIGHT! BUT WHAT AIN I DO? I DONE MY JOB! I PICKED 'EM UP! IT'S UP TO THE D.A. NOW!



THE DAYS CHANGED BY.

THEY SAY ANDERSON'S GONNA GET OFF! MARK BARKER'S TESTIMONY, DAWSON!

CONSIDER- STANTIAL EVIDENCE! HE GONNA STAND FOR THAT, SHERIFF?

YOU SHOULD'VE CHECKED 'EM WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE! I CAN'T DO NOTHING NOW!



TRIAL-DAY DREW NEAR.

MR. ANDERSON! DO YOU HAVE ANY STATEMENT TO MAKE TO THE PRESS?

GENTLEMEN! I HAVE SPOKEN TO MY CLIENT, MR. COLLINS, AND I HAVE EXAMINED THE TESTIMONY! I AM CONVINCED OF HIS INNOCENCE AND WILL PROVE IT AT THE TRIAL!



COLLINS IS GUILTY! HE PRACTICALLY ADMITTED IT! NO LEGAL SMART-ALICE FROM OUT-OF-TOWN IS GONNA GET AWAY OFF! NOT WHILE I'M SHERIFF!

MAY WE QUOTE YOU, SHERIFF DAWSON?



THE DAY OF THE TRIAL SHOWN DARK AND GLOOMY! IT HAD RAINED ALL THE PREVIOUS NIGHT! THE SHERIFF AND TWO OF HIS DEPUTIES SET OFF FOR THE COUNTY SEAT TO BRING BACK ARREY COLLINS...



THEY STAYED BACK IN SILENCE! COLLINS SAT, HANDCUFFED, BETWEEN SHERIFF DAWSON AND ONE DEPUTY! THE OTHER DEPUTY DROVE! FINALLY...



THE SQUAD-CAR ROLLED TO A STOP! THE RAIN CONTINUED TO POUR DOWN...



THE DEPUTY NAMED JED STEPPED OUT INTO THE POURING RAIN AND STARTED TO CIRCLE THE CAR, LOOKING AT THE TIRES...



DANSON SHOT COLLINS OUT OF THE CAR! THE DARK-SKINNED BOY SPRAWLED IN THE MUD! THE SHERIFF DREW HIS GUN AND COOKED THE HAMMER.



COLLINS TURNED AND SAW THE SHERIFF SIGHTED CAREFULLY...



THEY PICKED UP COLLINS AND CLAMPED HIM IN THE BACK SEAT! THEN THEY DROVE ON TO TOWN! THERE WAS A CROWD AROUND THE COURT-HOUSE WHEN THEY ARRIVED! MOORE, THE D.A., CAME TO THE CURB AS THEY DROVE UP...



THE TRIAL'S OFF! YOU CAN LET HIM GO!

WHAT? WHY... HE... HE'S DEAD! HE'S IN THE BACK'S SHOT HIM WHILE HE WAS TRYING TO ESCAPE!

COLLINS GOT TO HIS FEET! HE STARRED AT THE GUN FOR A MOMENT, SHAKING HIS HEAD! DANSON SQUEEZED THE TRIGGER! THE BULLET HOOKED UP THE PUDDLE TO THE RIGHT OF THE COLORED BOY'S FEET.



THE BULLET CAUGHT THE DARK-SKINNED BOY IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD! HE PITCHED FORWARD...



HE WAS LYING FACE DOWN IN A MUD-PUDDLE WHEN THEY CAME UP...



YOU SAW HIM MAKE A BREAK FOR IT WHEN WE SLOWED DOWN... DIDN'T YOU, JED... PHIL? YOU HEARD ME BARK, DIDN'T YOU?

S-SURE, WE... SURELY? WE... GET FUM!

GOOD LORD! HANK BARKER JUST CONFESSED! HENDERSON BROKE HIM DOWN! HE DID IT! HE KILLED THE WOMAN! COLLINS WAS INNOCENT! INNOCENT AS A BABY! WELL... YOU HAD HE ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE! WONDER WHAT CHASED HIM TO TRY?

WHETHER ALBERT COLLINS WAS INNOCENT OR NOT IS NOT IMPORTANT! BUT FOR ANY AMERICAN TO HAVE SO LITTLE REGARD FOR THE LIFE AND RIGHTS OF ANY OTHER AMERICAN IS A DEBARTHMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION UPON WHICH OUR COUNTRY IS FOUNDED!



—EDGEMOORE



JUMP-OFF!

Battered though he was, Ben Troy was alert enough to glance at the elevator button which the cop pressed. Despite the haze of pain forcing him back past the edge of unconsciousness, the captive Public Enemy caught sight of the number "2" under the man's thumb. He groaned in agony and cussed frantically on the wheeled emergency stretcher, but what he had seen kept drumming through his fevered brain. The Police who had captured him when his car cracked-up... they were taking him to a hospital room on the *second floor*. His luck was holding out! The *second floor* gave him at least a whisper of a chance to escape the hot seat awaiting his recovery from the accident! Two... two... *TWO*... with a break like this, he had an even-chance of a getaway!

It seemed like aeons later that Ben Troy recovered consciousness. Only his right eye was free of bandages, and when he turned in the bed a stabbing pain shuddered through his body. He was able to move, agonizing though it was... those fool cops had neglected to strap him to his bed! *They must've thought that car crash put old Ben on the skids*, he thought to himself. *After Sing Sing and Alcatraz, jumping-off from this cheer-box of a hospital oughtn't be a snap!*

Slowly, gritting his teeth to keep a gasp of pain from escaping, he slid from the hospital bed and wobbled toward the single window on the far side of the darkened room. He crouched over and listened to the voices whispering outside the door. Two of them, he gloated... *two cops stationed outside! That damned District Attorney's story is thick*

THAT'S enough to keep Ben Troy from escaping!

With painstaking care he opened the room's only window. It was pitch-black outside... he couldn't see a foot beyond the sill. But what Ben *could* see made him chuckle inwardly. The window was *unbarred*! All he had to do was get out on that sill and drop to the ground! With teeth grinding into his lower lip to keep from crying out in pain, he clambered ponderously into the space left by the open window. Nothing was visible below him in the darkness outside... must be a narrow inner court, he decided! Perfect spot for his jump-off! Enclosed as it was, his decent would never be heard! He could probably find a door and force his way out before they ever suspected that he was gone!

He drew a deep breath and relaxed his grip on the window sill, feeling the air rush up to meet him as he dropped. *Second floor*, he gloated... *all I'll get is a little mashing up!* *Lucky those jerks didn't know I realized how close to the ground I was!*

* * * * *

The bald police officer looked at his wrist-watch.

"Wow!" he exclaimed. "Time sure passed while we gassed out here! We better get this Troy character back to the receiving room. Why we gotta keep moving him around this hospital is something I'll never understand!"

The bald-headed officer round the back of the door he had been guarding and, followed by the other policeman, stepped into Room 819...

YOU'LL BE JARRED BY THE STARTLING WIND-UP TO THIS
SCIENCE-FICTION YARN!

The **BIG STAND-UP!**



A SCIENCE-FICTION SUSPENSE STORY

MY NAME IS BART THOMPSON! I'M A TELEVISION ENGINEER! YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THE STORY I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU... BUT IT'S TRUE, EVERY WORD OF IT I KNOW, BECAUSE IT HAPPENED TO ME! IT ALL BEGAN THE NIGHT I DECIDED TO WORK LATE AT THE T.V. STUDIO WHERE I WAS EMPLOYED...

THE NIGHT'S TRANSMISSION TIME WAS OVER AND EVERYONE HAD GONE HOME! JACK WAS THE LAST TO LEAVE! I WENT OUT ONTO THE SOUND STAGE AND ROLLED CAMERA ONE OVER TO THE CONTROL ROOM WINDOW! I POINTED IT AT MY SEAT INSIDE AND FOCUSED CAREFULLY...



COMING, BART?

YOU GO AHEAD, JACK! I'M GOING TO HAND AROUND! I WASN'T PLEASED WITH CAMERA ONE'S PICTURE, TONIGHT! THERE I'LL TRY AND ADJUST IT BETTER!



YOU MADE THE MARCH'S WIFE LOOK LIKE SHE WEIGHED THREE HUNDRED POUNDS TONIGHT, BART! SHE'S FAT, BUT NOT THAT FAT! YOU NEED SOME ADJUSTING...

THEN I WENT INTO THE CONTROL ROOM'S SAT DOWN AT THE MONITOR-PANEL AND FLIPPED ON CAMERA ONE'S MONITOR-SCREEN! THEN I CUT IN THE JUKE AND DROPPED THE TRANSMITTER HOOK-UP SO THE IMAGE WOULDN'T GO OUT OVER THE AIR! PRETTY SOON MY OWN SAG PUSS APPEARED ON THE PANEL...

BOY, YOU *DO* NEED ADJUSTING, BABY! I LOOK LIKE I JUST GOT SLAPPED ON THE HEAD WITH A *SLIDE-HAMMER*!

I WENT OUT TO THE CAMERA AND INCREASED THE VERTICAL DRIVE! THEN I CHECKED THE LINEARITY AND RETURNED TO MY SEAT...

THREE! THAT OUGHT TO...LOOK...HOW? GET? WHO'S KIDDIN' AROUND?

THE FACE ON CAMERA ONE'S MONITOR-TUBE WAS NOT MY FACE! IT WAS THE FACE OF A BEAUTIFUL GIRL...

HEFF? WHAT'S THE *HY* IDEA? SOMEBODY TRYIN' TO BE POINTY?

I FLIPPED ON THE CONTROL ROOM MUTE AND STUDIO P.A. SYSTEM! MY VOICE ECHOED THROUGH THE DESERTED STUDIO...

LOOK, WHOEVER YOU ARE! I'M TRYIN' TO GET SOME *WOPPE* DONE! STOP THE COMEDY AND CUT IN CAMERA ONE...HOW?

I WAS LOSING MY TEMPER FAST! FIRST THAT DORSEUS FACE...AND NOW SOME *HYE* DOUBLE-TALK...

GLIM OFF IT? OWS-FOW! I DIDN'T SEAY! DOO-HOW-AZ LATE FOR FOW? ALA-FORT? JAKE? YOU DOIN' THIS?

I COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT! CAMERA ONE WAS 'ON'! I COULD TELL BY THE GLOWING RED LIGHT ON THE TOP! AND IT WAS POINTED DIRECTLY AT ME! YET, THE MONITOR IN THE CONTROL ROOM CARRIED THE PICTURE OF THAT LUSCIOUS GAZE! I FIGURED MYSELF! I FIGURED I MUST BE DREAMING...

OWEN? OWEN? QUAD-NORT-DOR-NOR-DOO-BU-WALA-ROO?

NO! I WAS WIDE AWAKE! SOMETHING FREAKISH WAS TAKING PLACE! UNLESS SOMEBODY'D DELIBERATELY REWIRED THE MONITOR-BOARD, THIS THING WAS IMPOSSIBLE! BUT I HEARLY TONE THE PLACE APART WHEN SHE STARTED TALKING *ENGLISH*...

WHO ARE YOU? I...M...LARA...VIEW-GRAPH-ENGINEER, TECH THIRD SHIF...INTERPLANETARY COMMUNIC...TIONS COMMISSION! HEADQUARTERS STATION...ZUNDA ON PLANET 4!

HOW? WHAT? SE, CUT IT OUT, WILL YOU? THAT'S ENOUGH FOOL IN AROUND!

BUT SHE JUST LEFT ON TALKING! AND SHE WAS DEAD SERIOUS...

OPERATION OF INTER-PLANETARY COMMUNICATIONS IS NOT FOOLING AROUND! YOU ARE JAMMING MY WAVELENGTH! IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

WHA? WHY? I LISTEN, BUT I DON'T!

THIS IS T.V. ENGINEER BART THOMPSON STATION WFTV-TV, PLANET EARTH... SALARY \$75.00 PER... AND I'LL KNOW YOUR BOFFRIEND'S HEAD OFF WHEN I GET AROUND OF...

PLANET... WHAT?

EARTH! LIKE HE'S GONNA BE SHIPPED SIX FEET UNDER! LOOK HERE, JACK! THAT'S EARTH!

EARTH? IN WHAT SOLAR SYSTEM IS YOUR PLANET LOCATED?

IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM WITH THE NINE PLANETS... INCLUDING THE ONE WITH THE JUNG... WHICH IS JUST WHAT I'M GONNA DO TO YOUR NECK...

THE ONE WITH THE JUNG? BUT THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE!

IMPOSSIBLE? YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM IS EIGHTY LIGHT-YEARS AWAY! THE ONE WITH THE JUNG... IT IS THE SIXTH PLANET FROM THE START.

THAT'S RIGHT! AND I'M ON THE THIRD EARTH! SAY! IS THIS A JUNG OR NOT? IT?

THIS IS NO JOKE, BART THOMPSON... STATION WFTV-TV SALARY \$75.00 PER HOUR ARE EIGHTY LIGHT-YEARS AWAY!

BUT, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! DO YOU SEE ME?

VERY CLEARLY!

BUT I'M NOT EVEN TRANSMITTING! I'M ON A CLOSING ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT?

OBVIOUSLY, IT IS AN INTERSTELLAR ELECTRONIC MARR?

SAY! HOW COME I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU? IF YOU'RE FROM SOME OTHER WORLD, HOW COME YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?

I DON'T SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE! I SPEAK MY OWN! YOU HEARD IT BEFORE? I HAVE AN AUTOMATIC TRANSLATOR HOOKED UP! IT'S A TYPE OF MECHANICAL-ELECTRIC BRAIN! IT TRANSLATES OUR RESPECTIVE LANGUAGES FOR US!

LARA WAS LOVELY! WE CHATTED FOR HALF THE NIGHT! SHE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HER PLANET, AND I TOLD HER ALL ABOUT EARTH.

YOU ... YOU'RE VERY BEAUTIFUL, LARA! AND YOU ARE QUITE HANDSOME, BART!



TOWARDS MORNING I CONFESSED TO LARA...

I ... I LOVE YOU, LARA! I KNOW IT'S CRAZY AND USELESS... BUT I DO!



THEN SHE WAS GONE! I CHECKED EVERYTHING CAREFULLY...NOTING EACH ADJUSTMENT OF THE EQUIPMENT IN THE CONTROL ROOM! THEN I WENT HOME! THE NEXT NIGHT...

STILL! LATE AGAIN, BART!



YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT SPACE TRAVEL! YOUR PEOPLE HAVE IT?



WOULD YOU COME TO EARTH, HONEY? I WOULD WAIT FOR YOU!



AS SOON AS EVERYONE WAS GONE, I SET UP THE EQUIPMENT EXACTLY AS IT HAD BEEN THE PREVIOUS NIGHT! LARA CAME IN SHARP!

DARLING! I WAS SO WORRIED THAT THAT IT WOULDN'T WORK! AGAIN! I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU ALL DAY!



BUT YOU COULDN'T COME HERE, COULD YOU?



BUT, LARA! SUPPOSE WE CANNOT MAKE CONTACT AGAIN?



THAT NIGHT I LEARNED THAT LARA SOCIETY HAD A MARRIAGE-FAMILY SET-UP ALSO...

IF ... IF YOU CAME TO EARTH, LARA, I'D MARRY YOU!



WE WENT ON LIKE THAT FOR A YEAR! EVERY NIGHT I'D TALK TO LARA ACROSS THE VOID OF SPACE! WE FELL DEEPLY AND PASSIONATELY IN LOVE! I LONGED FOR HER! THEN, ONE NIGHT...

I HAVE WONDERFUL NEWS, DARLING! ONE OF OUR SCIENTISTS HAS JUST PERFECTED A NEW TYPE SPACECRAFT! IT WOULD ONLY TAKE HALF A HOUR TO GET TO YOUR PLANET NOW!

COULD YOU?



I COULD STEAL THE EXPERIMENTAL ROCKET-SHIP! IF I GOT AWAY, THEY'D NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP ME... AND I'D COME TO YOU! BUT, IF I WERE CAUGHT, IT WOULD MEAN MY LIFE!



MY LIFE IS EMPTY WITHOUT YOU, LARA!

THEN I WILL DO IT! BUT WE MUST PLAN EVERYTHING CAREFULLY! MEET ME - FULLY!



WE STARTED BY TRY TRANSMITTING MAPS OF EARTH TO LARA! IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT SHE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO LAND...

YOU'VE GOT THE MEMORANDUMS AND CONTINENT! NOW HERE'S A MORE DETAILED MAP OF THE AREA! SEE! YOU'LL LAND HERE! ON THESE SALT-PLATE!



I'D CHOSEN THE MOST BARREN AREA I COULD THINK OF FOR LARA TO COME DOWN IN! I WANTED TO KEEP THIS WHOLE THING QUIET! AFTER TWO WEEKS OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION...

JUST COME DOWN AS NEAR TO THE BLINDING LIGHT AS POSSIBLE! THAT'LL BE ME!

GOOD-BYE, HARRY! SEE YOU IN SIX MONTHS WHEN YOU CALL IT?



YES, HARRY! SIX MONTHS! AND PLEASE BE CAREFUL! I LOVE YOU SO!

I'LL BE CAREFUL! I'VE ALREADY BURNED THE BEARS! IT WILL BE EASY! TELL ME WHEN!



THE NEXT NIGHT, I TRIED TO MAKE CONTACT WITH LARA... BUT SHE DIDN'T COME IN! I KNEW SHE WAS ON HER WAY! THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WERE SPEECH AGONY... THE AGONY OF WAITING! FINALLY, THE TIME CAME NEAR...

REMEMBER THAT JEEP WITH THE SEARCHLIGHT MOUNTED ON IT THAT WE USED WHEN THAT MOVIE STAR CAME TO TOWN, JACK?

YES! WE GOT IT FROM THE ARMY! THEY SAID WE COULD HAVE IT ANYTIME!



I BORROWED IT! I HAVE THE ARMY A TALL STORY ABOUT ANOTHER MOVIE STAR AND DROVE OUT TO THE SALT-PLATE! AS THE HOUR DREW NEAR, I STARTED FLASHING THE LIGHT INTO THE STAR-STUCCO SKY...

HERE, LARA! MEET ME HERE, HONEY!



SUDDENLY THE SKY ABOVE ME WAS FILLED WITH A ROARING, AND THE SEARCHLIGHT GAUGED A GLIMMERING SILVER SHAPES...



THE SHIP CAME TO REST ABOUT A MILE AWAY! I SPED ACROSS THE FLATS TOWARD IT, THE SEARCHLIGHT TRAILING ON IT...



LARA'S ROCKET-SHIP DROPPED TAIL-FIRST TOWARD THE FLATS TO THE NORTH OF ME...



AS I NEARED LARA'S SHIP, A STRANGE THING BEGAN TO HAPPEN...



IT WAS LARA'S SHIP! IT SEEMED TO BE SPLITTING IN TWO... FROM STEM TO STERN...



... AND AS THE TWO HALVES OF THE GIANT SHIP PARTED WIDE, I SCREAMED...



LARA LOOKED EXACTLY AS SHE'D APPEARED ON THE TV. MONITOR SCREEN! THE ONLY TROUBLE WAS SHE STOOD ABOUT TWO HUNDRED FEET TALL...



HERE IS A TALE OF TENSION WITH SHEER,
STARK HORROR IN ITS GRIPPING CLIMAX!

STUMPED!

**A HORROR
SUSPENSE STORY**

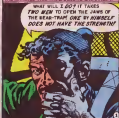


FAR UP IN THE NORTHERN-MOST REACHES OF THE CANADIAN WOODS ARE MEN WHO LIVE BY TRAPPING THE VALUABLE, FUR-BEARING ANIMALS WHICH ROAM THAT AREA? SUCH A MAN IS HENRI PETITE...



WON SOON MY BEAR-TRAP? SHE IS SUPPOSED TO LIE FROM THAT TREE FELL UPON IT!

HENRI PETITE HAS MANY TRAPS! DURING THE TRAPPING SEASON HE SETS THEM OUT IN A ROUTE CALLED A "TRAP-LINE" IT TAKES MANY DAYS TO TRAVEL THIS TRAP-LINE AND COLLECT THE ANIMALS THAT HAVE BECOME CAGED...



WHAT WILL I DO? IT TAKES TWO MEN TO OPEN THE JAWS OF THE BEAR-TRAP ONE BY HIMSELF DOES NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH!

TRAPPERS LIKE HENRI LIVE IN SMALL, COMFORTABLE CABINS DEEP IN THE WOODS. ALL WINTER LONG THEY SET OUT FROM THEIR CABINS TO TRAVEL THEIR TRAP LINES! THEY RETURN MANY DAYS... PERHAPS WEEKS... LATER, AND REST UP AFTER THEY ARE RESTED, THEY SET OUT AGAIN.



BEARS SOMETIMES WEIGH AS MUCH AS A THOUSAND POUNDS! YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW STRONG A TRAP MUST BE TO CATCH A BEAR AND HOLD IT.



MANGEL CANAL IS ALSO A TRAPPER! HIS CABIN IS LOCATED NOT FAR FROM HENRI'S! DURING THE LONG WINTER, WHEN THEY ARE NOT OUT ON THEIR TRAP LINES, THE TWO TRAPPERS SPEND MANY HOURS TOGETHER... PLAYING CHECKERS...



THE BEAR-TRAP IS A HUGE STEEL-JAWED AFFAIR! IN THE CENTER IS A SMALL PLAT DISC WHICH TRIGGERS THE SET TRAP! USUALLY THE ANIMAL STEPS UPON THIS TRIGGER, AND THE TRAP SNAPS SHUT! BUT A BEAR-TRAP, BY NECESSITY, MUST BE A *HUGE* ONE...



I MADE OUT WELL THIS TRIP! BUT STILL NO BEAR! THE TRAP WE SET TOGETHER HAS NOT BEEN TOUCHED! I AM NOT SO FORTUNATE, MANGEL! MY BEAR-TRAP, SHE IS *SPRINGING*!





THERE IS ENOUGH
TIME FOR NEXT WHEN
JOURNEY COMES!
HOW MANY DAYS
JOURNEY IS IT?
I'VE FORGOTTEN!

IT IS
NOT ONE
DAY!



GOOD! WE
WILL LEAVE
IN THE
MORNING!

YOU ARE MY
BEST FRIEND,
MARCEL! I AM
LIGHT MAN!



GOOD NIGHT,
HENRI!

GOOD NIGHT,
MARCEL!

A FEW MILES FROM HENRI PETITE'S CABIN IS THE CABIN
OF JACQUES GOMRIET, ANOTHER TRAPPER. JACQUES HAS
ALWAYS HATED HENRI. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN JEALOUS
OF HENRI'S TRAP-TERRITORY. HENRI'S TRAP-LINES
HAVE ALWAYS PRODUCED MANY MORE FELTS THAN
JACQUES.



BAH! SEVEN FELTS! THAT IS ALL
I FIND THIS TRIP! MARCEL ENOUGH
TO PAY FOR MY FOOD!

IN THE NORTH-WOODS COUNTRY, A TRAPPER'S TERRI-
TORY IS REGARDED AS SACRED. NO TRAPPER DARES
LAY HIS TRAPS IN ANOTHER'S TERRITORY. IT IS AN
UNWRITTEN LAW.



BUT IF HENRI PETITE WERE DEAD,
I COULD SET MY TRAPS IN HIS TERRI-
TORY! AND THEN, HOW I COULD
PAY FOR THAT CAT!

THE NEXT MORNING, HENRI AND MARCEL START OUT FOR
HENRI'S BEAR-TRAP TO RE-SET IT. JACQUES WATCHES
THEM GO.



I WONDER WHAT THOSE
TWO ARE GOING TO? I WILL
FOLLOW THEM AND SEE!

TOWARDS NOON, THE TWO MEN REACH THE SPRING
BEAR-TRAP. JACQUES, KEEPING WELL HIDDEN, HAS
FOLLOWED THEM TO THE SPOT.



HERE IT IS, MARCEL! SEE
HOW THE TRIP-LINE HAS
FALLEN UPON THE RELEASE
DISC.

YES! WELL!
COME! LET US
RE-SET IT!

EACH MAN GRABS ONE OF THE JAWS OF THE HUGE BEAR TRAP AND THEY BEGIN TO PULL...

WOWWWW! SURE
AREN'T THIS IS A... UMP...
POWERFUL ONE?

JUST A LITTLE...
SASP... MORE...
MARGEL?



THERE? IT
IS SET?

WHEW! THINK OF WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF A MAN WERE CAUGHT
IN THIS TRAP? HE WOULD
NEVER BE ABLE TO GET OUT
BY HIMSELF!



YOU ARE RIGHT,
HENRI? JUST BE
CAREFUL YOU
YOURSELF DO
NOT STEP
INTO IT?

DO NOT WORRY,
MARGEL? I KNOW
EXACTLY
WHERE IT IS!
COME! LET US
GO!



AS THE TWO FRIENDS BEGIN
THEIR RETURN JOURNEY, JACQUES
SUDDENLY EMERGES FROM HIS
HIDEAWAY PLACE...

DO! YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHERE
THE TRAP IS, EH, HENRI? WELL?
I SURELY CAN FOR THAT!



JACQUES RETURNS TO HIS CABIN
MEANWHILE FORMULATING HIS
TREACHEROUS SCHEME...

IF I WERE TO MOVE THE
TRAP... JUST A LITTLE WAY UP
THE TRAIL... AND HENRI WERE
TO STEP IN IT... HE WOULD
FALL TO DEATH BEFORE
ANYONE MISSED HIM!



FROM HIS CABIN, JACQUES TAKES A HACK-SAW, TWO
STRONG LOOKS, AND TWO LENGTHS OF HEAVY CHAIN!
HE RETURNS WITH THEM TO HENRI'S BEAR-TRAP...

I MUST BE VERY CAREFUL NOT
TO SPRING THE TRAP WHILE I
MOVE IT!



SLOWLY, CAUTIOUSLY, JACQUES CUTS THE CHAIN THAT
ANCHORS THE BEAR-TRAP WITH THE HACK-SAW...

AH! IT IS CUT THROUGH!
NOW TO MOVE IT UP-TRAIL!



JAGUES IS GASPING FOR BREATH WHEN HE FINALLY FINISHES SNAGGING THE SET-TRAP UP-TRAIL TO A SPOT BETWEEN TWO TALL TREES...



WHEN? I AM SNAGGING LIKE A LEAF! BUT... I HAVE DONE IT!

CURLING ONE OF THE LENGTHS OF CHAIN ABOUT ONE OF THE TWO TREES AND LOOPING IT THROUGH THE TRAP, JAGUES LOCKS IT CLOSED WITH ONE OF THE TWO LOCKS HE'S BROUGHT...



THERE? NOW THE OTHER ONE!

REPEATING THIS MANUEVER ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE TRAIL... JAGUES SECURES THE TRAP THIMBLY BETWEEN THE TWO TREES.



NOW TO AIDE THE TRAP SO HENRI WILL NOT SEE IT!

A FEW HANDFULS OF DEAD LEAVES ARE DRIED THIN AND THE TRAP IS CAMOUFLAGED! JAGUES GINS AT HIS WORK...



HEH, HEH! NOW IT IS READY FOR YOU, HENRI! READY FOR YOU!

IT IS ALMOST A WEEK LATER THAT HENRI PETITE COMPLETES ANOTHER TRAP-LINE TOUR AND MOVES UP THE TRAIL, TOWARD HIS BEAR-TRAP.



I DO NOT HEAR ANY THUNDERING OR BROWLING! AHH! NO LUCK! WELL! I WILL CHECK TO SEE IF THE TRAP IS STILL...

THE MIGHTY JAWS OF THE TRAP SPRING SHUT ON HENRI'S ANGLE.



FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, HENRI STRUGGLES TO FREE HIMSELF! THE MAN IS EXHAUSTING! THE HUGE STEEL TEETH GRIN DEEP! FINALLY, HE LAYS BACK EXHAUSTED.



IT...IT IS NO USE, SASP! IT IS... SASP... NO USE! I CANNOT OPEN THE TRAP BY MYSELF! I... SASP... I MUST WAIT FOR... SASP... SOMEONE TO SASP... RESCUE ME!

HENRI LOOKS AROUND¹ HIS PACK AND HIS GUN LAY WHERE THEY HAVE FALLEN² HE REACHES OUT FOR THEM.

JACQUE³ DIED!
I FORGOT ABOUT
YOUR GUN...
YOUR PACK!

JACQUE³ OH,
JACQUES³ DIED
MOMENT!



JACQUES MOVES FROM HIS HIDING PLACE AND GRABS HENRI'S EQUIPMENT BEHIND HIS REACH.

JACQUE³ WHAT ARE
YOU DOING? HELP ME!
HELP ME!

OH, NO, HENRI! YOU
ARE GOING TO STAY HERE,
AND PREPARED TO
DEATH!



JACQUES³ WHAT
ARE YOU SAY-
ING? YOU
WOULD LEAVE
ME HERE?

OF COURSE,
HENRI! WHO
DO YOU THINK
MOVED YOUR
TRAP IN THE
FIRST PLACE?



YOU?
YOU
DID
THIS?
BUT
WHY?

BECAUSE I WANT YOUR
TRAP-LINES, HENRI!
THIS WILL LOOK LIKE
AN UNFORTUNATE
ACCIDENT! THEY'LL
THINK YOU WERE
RELOCATING YOUR
TRAP...AND IT
SPREADS!



I'M GLAD I DECIDED TO
FOLLOW YOU TO SEE IF MY
PLAN WORKED! I FORGOT
ABOUT YOUR PACK AND GUN!
NOW YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO
REACH THEM! WELL, NOW HENRI,
PERHAPS A WILD CAT
OR WOLF WILL END YOUR
SUFFERING...FAST!



JACQUES DISAPPEARS INTO THE WOODS AND HENRI STARES AFTER HIM DUMFOUNDED.

I...I WILL STARVE WITHOUT MY
PACK! I CANNOT PROTECT MYSELF
WITHOUT MY GUN! I WILL
DIE HERE!



FOR MANY HOURS, HENRI STRUGGLES IN VAIN TRY-
ING TO FREE HIMSELF, TRYING TO REACH HIS KNAP-
SACK! BUT HE KNOWS THAT IT IS USELESS! HE
THINKS OF THE MANY ANIMALS THAT HE HAS
TRAPPED THIS NEXT A DAY PASSES! TWO! HUNGER
GNAW AT HENRI'S STOMACH.

I...MUST FREE MYSELF!
I...MUST!



A WEEK LATER, MARCEL DUNAL COMES TO SEE JACQUES SOUSBET.

IT IS ABOUT HENRI PETITE? HE HAS NOT RETURNED FROM HIS TRAIL-LINE YET? I AM WORRIED ABOUT HIM!

STAY HIM A FEW MORE DAYS? IF HE DOES NOT COME, WE WILL LOOK FOR HIM!



MEANWHILE, OUT IN THE WOODS, A RABBIT, HALF-STAYED FIGURE DRAWS ITSELF ALONG, LEAVING A TRAIL OF BLOOD BEHIND IT...



OH AND OH, PAINFULLY, HENRI PULLS HIMSELF! AS NIGHT FALLS, HE HEARS THE CRY OF JACQUES SOUSBET...



JACQUES IS IN HIS COT DOING WHEN THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN! HENRI STANDS FRAMED IN THE DOORWAY, THE STUMP OF HIS RIGHT LEG DRINKING SHADY.



HENRI! YOU TELL YOU FREED YOURSELF? YOU TELL NOW, DIDST? YOUR LEG!

THE SHOTGUN IN HENRI'S HANDS EXPLODES AND JACQUES'S FACE MELTS INTO A RED MASH...



WHEN MARCEL DUNAL COMES TO SOUSBET'S CABIN THE NEXT MORNING, HE FINDS JACQUES DEAD! HENRI SAYS: BUT HIS STORY...



THE... THE DIRTY SHIRT! BUT... BUT NOW DO YOU FREE YOURSELF, HENRI? YOU HAD A HELP... A KNIFE?

NO, BASH... MY KNIFE... WAS IN... FACE...

HENRI'S ANSWER IS ALMOST UNTHINKABLE! IT COMES IN HIS DYING BREATH...



I... I OVER... I OVER MY LEG OFF!

THE END